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SUBJECT: CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE - AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

On November 18, 2008, Ambassador Alan Eastham presented his credentials to Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou N'guesso. Also presenting today were the ambassadors of Brazil, Iran, Germany, and Canada (the last three resident in Kinshasa). President Sassou N'guesso warmly welcomed the Ambassador. The Ambassador presented his mission in terms of continuing the process of rebuilding the U.S. diplomatic presence, most notably with the completion of the new embassy compound. Sassou observed that the projected start of operations in the new facility, January 20, was highly significant and symbolic. He recalled his contacts with President Bush and Secretary Rice and hoped that such interactions would continue when the new administration takes office in January.

EASTHAM